

Little Girl Hidden 3 Years

Grandparents Kept

Child From Her Father

SACRAMENTO — (UPI) — Governor Reagan, reacting angrily to the Watergate “fly that keeps buzzing around my head,” maintained yesterday the wire-tapping case has been blown out of proportion by the news media and senators.

“It has been blown out of proportion in view of past practices in election history,” said the Republican Governor, who was President Nixon’s California campaign chairman last year and is a potential presidential contender in 1976.

Reagan disagreed with GOP colleagues who fear the Watergate controversy will hurt party candidates in future elections. “I doubt the people are going to indict millions of Republicans for something that perhaps a few people have done,” the Governor said.

Reagan suggested a bipartisan study commission be created to tell Americans “what have become rather common election practices — including stealing of votes and stuffing of ballot boxes and all of the things that have been cynically taken for granted by the people.”

When the Watergate bugging controversy first erupted last June, Reagan told newsmen “espionage is not considered dishonorable” in political campaigns. Later, he began joking about the wiretapping in his speeches. But yesterday, he became angry when reporters pressed him for his reaction as a GOP leader to the latest developments.

Commenting on a recent Gallup Poll which showed four out of 10 Americans believed Nixon knew about the bugging in advance, Reagan said: “That is a tribute to the ability of those who have been doing their best to blow this ... carry it as far and as long and as close to the next election as they can.”

Asked to identify “those,” Reagan answered: “This would involve elements of the communications media. This would involve representatives on the Senate investigating committee. They’ve got hold of a good thing from their standpoint.”

In reply to a question

about what irritates him most concerning Watergate, Reagan said: “I’m irritated at a fly that keeps buzzing around my head. You’ve been doing this for weeks.”

The Governor answered, “Yes, I still do” when asked whether he believes no person “high up” in Nixon’s campaign was involved in the bugging of the Democratic headquarters. But he quickly added:

“Gentlemen, I know no more than you do, or has been printed, about Watergate. I have no personal inside information of any kind. I am as curious as I’m sure all of you are.”

Reagan said, “The answer is to come out, as the President has said himself, and establish once and for all who is involved, what was the extent of his involvement and let the law take its course.”

The Governor said the bugging “was the wrong thing to do. Some men already have been sentenced. If there are others involved they will be.”

As Reagan left the news conference, he turned to a group of visiting Stanford University journalism students and said: “They’re (reporters) looking for any excuse to keep writing on it (Watergate). They just keep on and on and on. You got a pretty good example of picaresque questions.”